(b) if so, the quantum of power in MW being generated in these units;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government of Japan have made available full amount for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Two Units out of three units of Eastern Gandak Hydro Power Project are commissioned at present. The third Unit has not been commissioned so far for want of replacement of field circuit breaker. Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) and electric governor which were damaged during transit. Unti 1 and 2 has been commissioned on 13.9.1995 and 28.6.1996 respectively.

(b) and (c) The total power generated upto April 15, 1997 from these units has been 28.7 MU. Both the units are operating at their rated capacity of 5 MW each.

(d) The project has been funded through OECF loan. The contracted amount of loan was 1628 Million Yen and the full amount of loan has been disbursed by OECF.

OECF have been requested by Bihar Hydro Power Corporation Limited to provide an additional loan of 56.45 Million Yen in terms of grant to enable to meet the expenditure required for replacement of field circuit breaker. AVR and electric governer and supervision changes during the commissioning of third Units.

*[English]*

**Public Administration**

5091. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the Public Administration during the period of political instability or uncertainty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

**Setting up of Hydro Power Project at Purnia**

5092. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a hydro power plant at Purnia district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the plant is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) There is no Project report for Hydroelectric Project in Purnia District pending for techno-economic clearance in Central Electricity Authority. There is no hydroelectric project under construction in Purnia District.

*[Translation]*

**Employment Opportunities under New Economic Policy**

5093. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any programme to create employment opportunities under the new economic policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of unemployed youths likely to be benefited under this scheme during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan has formulated a medium term strategy to create additional employment opportunities of the order of 8.5 million per annum on an average. The strategy of employment growth is likely to be continued during the Ninth Plan period and 9.5 million additional employment opportunities per annum on an average is expected to be generated which could benefit unemployed youths during the period 1997-2002. To achieve this rate of growth of employment the Plan envisaged an employment strategy which lays emphasis on the growth of sectors and sub-sectors with high employment intensity such as agriculture, agro and rural industries, rural infrastructure, small and decentralised manufacturing sector, urban informal sector and the services sector. New employment schemes such as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), and the two-million Job Scheme of the KVIC have been introduced in the Eighth Plan period besides continuing the ongoing schemes like IRDP, JRY and NRY. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme has also an element of employment generation with the provision of basic services to the poorer segments of the population.

*[English]*

**Gas Agencies**

5094. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Chhattisgarh and Ujjain districts of Madhya Pradesh where Liquified Petroleum Gas agencies have been established and since when;

(b) the number of additional connections of liquified petroleum gas provided to these agencies during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons registered with these

agencies for new connections during the above period; and

(d) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons in the waiting list, agency-wise in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The details regarding number of distributorships their age group, number of LPG connections released through these distributorships during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 and waiting list with the LPG distributorships functioning in Chhattisgarh Region and Ujjain District of Madhya Pradesh are given below :

| | Number | Age Group | Number of LPG connections released during 1994-95 to 1996-97 | Waiting List |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chhattisgarh | 62 | 1963-1996 | 37056 | 127164 |
| Ujjain Distt. | 16 | 1982-1996 | 14428 | 26735 |

*[Translation]*

**Displaced of Tehri Dam**

5095. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people from submerged area of the ongoing dam project at Tehri Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh and other people from the district as well as the people of different categories are given priority in employment;

(b) if so, the total number of posts of various categories filled up during the last three years and category-wise number of people from submerged area out of them;

(c) whether T.H.D.C. is ignoring people of the area while giving employment; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) The Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDC) accords preference in employment in the notified vacancies to the persons belonging to submergence areas of the Tehri Hydroelectric Project. The details of category-wise posts filled during 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given below :

| Sl. No. | Category of Posts | Total Posts filled | No. of Persons belonging to Submergence area |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Executives | 33 | 14* |
| 2. | Supervisors | 17 | 14 |
| 3. | Workman | 25** | 17 |

Persons from non-submergence area were recruited against specialised posts. The persons from submergence area were not readily available locally and those against the reserved vacancies.

Includes two reserved vacancies and four appointments on compassionate grounds.

**National Housing Bank**

5096. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned NHB pays Rs. 912 crore to Grindlays" appearing in 'Indian Express' dated 18th April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Housing Bank (NHB), a fully owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has reported that in a matter of its dispute with the ANZ Grindlays Bank P.L.C. in connection with certain securities transactions put through during March-April, 1992, it had entered into an agreement with ANZ National Grindlays Bank P.L.C. on 4th November, 1992 to refer the matter to a panel/Board of Arbitrators. The agreement *interalia* provided that the award by majority shall prevail and also that NHB shall pay the disputed amount to ANZ Grindlays P.L.C. if it fails to establish its claim together with such interest as may be awarded, and that neither party shall adopt any proceedings to challenge the award until the payment is made as aforesaid. The learned arbitrators by a majority of two to one pronounced their award on 29th March, 1997 and NHB has accordingly pronounced their award on 29th March, 1997 and NHB has accordingly paid an amount of Rs. 912.22 crores (including interest) to ANZ Grindlays Bank P.L.C. At the request of NHB, RBI sanctioned term loan of Rs. 700 crores repayable after 15 years with interest @ 5% per annum with a stipulation that in the event of the award being finally set aside, the entire amount recovered from ANZ Grindlays Bank will be repaid to RBI. NHB provided the balance amount from its internal resources.

NHB has further reported that it has decided to challenge the majority award in the Special Court under the provisions of Indian Arbitration Act, 1940.

**Acquisition of Nuclear Arms by Neighbouring Country**

5097. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the gigantic array of nuclear arms, stockpiled across India's western borders;

(b) if so, whether Government would review the stand taken by her not to go nuclear unless we are forced; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?